

Commissioner for Patents

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3, 6 to 22 and 24 to 29 remain in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended whereby to incorporate therein all of the limitations found in claim 5 and its intervening claims. Claim 5 was indicated as being allowable over the art cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 1 now includes the recitations of former claims 2, 4 and 5.

Claim 20 was amended whereby to incorporate therein the limitations found in former claim 23 which the Examiner also indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, former claim 23 was cancelled. The dependencies of some of the claims were amended in view of the fact that the claims which they depended upon had been cancelled.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has cited U.S. Patent 6,212,714 which discloses a hospital bed having a retracting foot section. The embodiment which more closely resembles that of Applicant's design is that as illustrated in Figures 9 to 13. However, with that compressible foot section there were no telescoping members retained captive in the soft foam piece to cause guided displacement and prevent buckling. This feature has now been incorporated in the two independent claims as on file, namely, claims 1 and 20.


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In view of the above amendments, this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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(Date)

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